

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02555 042243Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 AID-05 USSS-00

SCA-01 SCS-03 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /094 W

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P R 042216Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2248

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 2555

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING:SIXTH DAY

REF: CARACAS 2498

SUMMARY. THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT MARCH 3 BY NIEHOUS' ABDUCTORS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE FAMILY OR OWENS-ILLINOIS. PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS PROMISED TO DEAL HARSHLY WITH TERRORISTS AND KIDNAPPERS. DISIP HAS REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED THAT THE ENVELOPES USED BY THE KIDNAPPERS WERE OBTAINED FROM OUTGOING MAIL AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. FAMILY TO BROADCAST TV APPEAL. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 3, THE SIXTH DAY SINCE THE KIDNAPPING OF U.S. INDUSTRIALIST WILLIAM NIEHOUS, PASSED WITH NO FURTHER WORD FROM HIS CAPTORS. PEDRO TORRES, DIRECTOR OF THE VENEZUELAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (DISIP), AFFIRMED PUBLICLY MARCH 3 THAT THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPERS HAD NOT CONTACTED THE NIEHOUS FAMILY. HE ALSO DENIED THAT A RANSOM REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED. OWENS-ILLINOIS LOCAL FINANCIAL MANAGER ALSO INSISTED MARCH 3 THAT NEITHER THE NIEHOUS FAMILY OR OWENS-ILLINOIS HAD RECEIVED A RANSOM REQUEST AND INDICATED THAT THE FIRM REMAINED READY TO RESPOND TO A COMMUNICATION FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CARACA 02555 042243Z

NIEHOUS' TRUE ABDUCTORS. ASKED WHETHER OWENS-ILLINOIS

WAS PREPARED TO PAY A RANSOM FOR NIEHOUS' SAFETY, THE EXECUTIVE SAID SUCH A REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE FIRM'S HEAD OFFICE.

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ WITHOUT REFERRING TO THE NIEHOUS ABDUCTION SPECIFICALLY, PROMISED A TOUGH POLICY AGAINST TERRORISTS AND KIDNAPPERS DURING HIS ADDRESS MARCH 3 OPENING THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL SESSION. PEREZ ASSURED THE CONGRESS THAT SECURITY WILL BE MAINTAINED AND THAT THE GOV WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED. HE STATED THAT THE GOV, IN CARRYING OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE PUBLIC, WILL OBSERVE THE LAW AND NOT ACT RASHLY.

3. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NIEHOUS CASE INCLUDED:

A. THE REPORTED DISCOVERY BY DISIP THAT THE ENVELOPES USED BY NIEHOUS' ABDUCTORS TO MAIL DOCUMENTS TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND EL NACIONAL ON FEBRUARY 28 HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM OUTGOING MAIL AT THE UCV UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, THE ORIGINAL CONTENTS AND ADDRESSES REMOVED, AND THE DOCUMENTS AND NEW ADDRESSES SUBSTITUTED.

B. THE REPORTED DETERMINATION BY DISIP THAT 7 OF THE 22 DOCUMENTS MAILED ON FEBRUARY 28 WERE FRAUDULENT IN THAT THEY WERE NOT COPIES OF ACTUAL OWENS-ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS.

C. A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS BY INDUSTRIALIST CARLOS DOMINGUEZ, A 1972 KIDNAP VICTIM, EXPRESSING HIS BELIEF THAT NIEHOUS CAPTORS ARE THE SAME GROUP THAT ABDUCTED HIM, THE MOLINOS PALACIOS BROTHERS, AND BANKER ENRIQUE DAO FOR RANSOM.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ON THE ADVICE OF THE VENEZUELAN POLICE THE NIEHOUS FAMILY IS TAPING A TELEVISION APPEAL TO THE KIDNAPPERS FOR BROADCAST THIS EVENING AT 10:00 P.M.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA02555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760083-0385
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760396/aaaadgsd.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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